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9 March 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Geographic Research  
THROUGH: Chief, Geography Division  
SUBJECT: Southeast Asia Committee

1. It is recommended that the Geographic Research Area sponsor the formation of an informal Southeast Asia Committee comprised of personnel from various components of the Intelligence Community. The objectives of the Committee will be:

- a. To provide a clearing house for the exchange of data on this part of the world for intelligence purposes;
- b. To promote an awareness of strategic developments in this area;
- c. To provide a vehicle which will permit discussion pertinent to specific problems, generally of current interest, in the area;
- d. To identify the deficiencies in intelligence on the area and stimulate remedial action where appropriate;
- e. To facilitate the acquaintance of personnel of the Intelligence Community who have a common interest in Southeast Asia and to achieve an awareness of programs concerned with the area.

2. The Committee will function essentially as a CIA undertaking, but with the fullest possible participation by personnel of other agencies who have responsibilities or interests in Southeast Asia. Chairmanship of the Committee will rotate among the CIA participants.

3. It is proposed that the Far East Branch, Geography Division, undertake to lay the groundwork for the Committee in accordance with the steps outlined herein. Participants will be sought initially and informally from the following offices or units within CIA:

- a. OER: D/OA, D/EC, D/OL, NSA units dealing with Bloc activities in Southeast Asia.
- b. OCI
- c. ORE

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d. ID/P: FK

e. SRS/DOI

f. OCR

4. Subsequently, participants from the following outside organizations may be sought:

a. State: IRA

b. Army: ACKI

c. Air Force

d. JCS: JIB

e. Navy: ONI

f. USIA

g. ICA

h.

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5. Agencies outside of CIA will be contacted only after the Committee is established and operating. As a result there may be some change in the composition of the list of outside participants in accordance with the recommendations of the original CIA group. All participants will be instructed as to the wholly informal, unofficial status of the Committee. It is anticipated that the benefits that will accrue to participants from the activities of the Committee will provide sufficient motive and cohesiveness to sustain the organization.

6. The initial meeting of the Committee will consider the following matters:

a. Introduction of persons present.

b. Determination of the manner in which the Committee will function, including time, place, duration of meetings, circulation of agenda and minutes, chairmanship, and secretarial support (available initially from within the OSA).

c. Tentative consideration of other offices and agencies that should be represented.

d. Agenda for the next meeting.

At subsequent meetings it is hoped to build discussion around specific topics that are presented by regular or guest participants.

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7. It is requested that approval be granted for CG/F to proceed with informal developmental contacts among the proposed CIA participants specified in paragraph 3, to determine the feasibility of establishing the proposed Committee and, if it appears advisable, to proceed with firm plans for an initial meeting of the CIA participants.

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Chief, Far East Branch, W/O

  
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